IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 9, 12 and 13 as follows:

B2

1. (Twice Amended) A method for the extraction of hydrophobic constituents from an aqueous solution, comprising the steps of:

a. contacting said solution with a porous, dimensionally stable granular or powdery material, of which the pores have a size of from 0.1 to 50 μm and contain an immobilized hydrophobic substance with affinity for the hydrophobic constituents to be extracted, which granular or powdery material has a particle size of from 0.1 to 10 mm, and is wetted more readily by the hydrophobic substance immobilized in the pores than by the aqueous solution to be treated, and

b. regenerating the product of step a), essentially without the granular or powdery material being freed from the hydrophobic substance, by removal of the hydrophobic constituents.

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9. (Amended) A method according to claim 8, wherein the immobilized glycerol ester is soybean oil and/or castor oil.

B4

12. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the porous material was obtained by dissolving a polymer in a solvent with heating, cooling the solution to obtain a solidified mass, and the mechanical diminution of the solidified mass.

B5

13. (Amended) A method according to claim 12, wherein the polymer is polypropylene and the solvent is soybean oil and/or castor oil.

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending herein. In a telephone conference between the Examiner and Michael R. Brew on March 19, 2003, several amendments were suggested to claims